#1)

London 8th mo., 2nd, 1785

My Dear Sons Saml and Wm,

having wrote yr.- dear Mother the 26th ult., wch* I here inclose the day I reach'd this City, but no conveyance appearg* earlier that the Packet frm* Falmth*, could not forward it, may refer you to hers for some particulars of our passage, wch* was very fine--20½ days fm* Land to Land-23 & a few hours to my landg* at Dover, somewhat short of 25 to the Ship being at this City, though I did not reach it till the afternoon of the same day. The Performance of the Vessell* with the attention of the Master & Crew was a great satisfaction; in our passage we had 5 Days of Easterly winds which brot us out 214 miles on our way, so that you may see our passage was made in 17 days, the last 5 to our being up with the land we came 200 miles a day one with the other. The Ship is discharg'd of her little frt* & is preparing for the Whale voige* expect she will be ready in 10 days, the Crew yet remain intire,but endeavours are almost continually us'd to get them away, the Spirit of Whaling seems almost running to a degree of madness, they intend if men can be got to send out 30 Ships, but at present there appears no possibility of getting men. 6 other Ships have arriv'd, viz--Delano--85 Tuns, Bennet 85--Brown 77--P.Pease 77--Gage 50--Goldsmith 43-the others considerable but not arrived. Goldsmith was in comp. with the Canton she had got abt* 160 Bbls. all sperm chiefly in mateship with him, Whippey killed 2 large whales in one day,before they came together,but lost both by a Squall or Storm; the Ship Sails fast,but is too hard ~~ballasting~~ having too much ballast in, they parted about the 12th of the 2nd mo.- Whippey for the Islds* & Goldsmith for this place who informs me the weather was boistrous for 5 weeks after.Whippey had carriad away 2 Top masts,fore & main, which I was sorry to hear. The Boat Builder had taken the advantage of us in the Boat Boards not giving the price we expected, Morey got L-5 the Irons & lances sold at the price we expected, but no more lances are wanted.-I have recd* Thirty pounds ~~Sterling~~ Sterlg* here of Zacharias Swain,to repay his father Charles Swain,thelike sum, wch* I desire you would do on sight of this

letter or any other that may come to hand sooner, & place to my acct*. Danial Coffin in the Mercury has arriv'd from Boston, who informs me the Court have allowed us a Bounty on Sperm Oils of L-6 Lm. pr.Tun, & abated the Taxes, but his acct* is so imperfect that I can gain little knowledge from it, it is strange Folger did not write me on the Subject, as Coffin informs me he left him in Boston, how far this will be adequate to the Expence of the Fishery I cannot tell, not knowing what oil is worth in Boston at this time, but if suffucient to satisfy our people, it will ease me of a great burthen* wch* I could wish to be clear of, & have only to conduct our Own business, which would be more agreeable to me than otherwise. I have had but little time in this country therefore can form no judgement of many interesting particulars which I know would be agreeable to you to know, but this I can say,I came through a highly cultivated delightful Country, which still would doubtless have appeared to greater advantage, had my mind have been prepared for receiving to advantage the pleasing prospects wch* often presented from both Nature & Art, but as it was otherwise with me, what I partook of it that respect, rather forced its way, than otherwise,I have also found, an open, generous hospitable people both in theCountry & this City, & many of ranks commisserate our situation.Frans Macy is not yet arrived. I cannot write you at present respecting our public matters not having had oppty- to form any judgement. I intend, if well writing you again via Boston, as two vessels[s](Lyd'e & Fellows) are to sail in about 2 weeks,please to Number the letters that you send me & keep a list of the conveyances, I shall endeavor ~~to~~ do the same, as I expect our intercepters will look out.

I am with paternal love to you, & my dear daughters,(your wives) to whom I intend writing soon, in wch Benj.n joins,

your affectionate Father

Wm. Rotch.

#1.2

No. 1

LONDON, 8th mo, 2'd 1785

My dear son Thomas

Altho I am far distant from thee yet it has no opperation in abateing my care and affection for my tender offspring, but rather encreases it, not being present to give a word of caution and advice when it might appear necessary, but thou my son I hope will carefully attend to the advice & counsel of thy dear mother, brothers & sister, who with me I have no doubt are concern'd for thy good; be carefull to keep out of all unprofitable company, be diligent in thy business, but above all attentive to the great councellor in thy own bosom, which will reprove thee when thou does wrong, and speak peace to thee when thou does well, endeavour after stillness of mind at all opportunities, even when thy hands are imploy'd in business, a sufficient degree of it may be acquired for thy preservation, but above all in Religious meetings endeavour to gather thy mind into quietude, and watchfulness, which although we cannot attain it in or by our own will and endeavours, yet by cherrishing a desire after it, strength will be afforded from time to time to bannish evil thoughts, & the roving disposition so frequently attending our minds will be subjected, & then there will be room for a better guest, which my dear Son is a noble exchange. I have not time to enlarge, but my dear love is to thee, in which I am Thy affectionate Father.

Wm. Rotch

London
8th mo, 2'd, 1785

O.K. 422

No. 2.

To.

William Rotch & Sons,

Nantucket

Mercht.

Boston.

To the Care of Jos. Hussey
and the Hope Capt. Fellows.

#2 p1

London 8th mo. 9th., 1785.

Dear Sons Samuel and William,

I wrote you the 2dn inst.pr.(c/o)*the New York Packet,informing of our safe arrivals in Twenty Five days to this city, all well except Ann who is now well recruited, and sets off this afternoon upon her enbassy, toward Wales taking some meetings in her way; Zacchary sets off also about the same time, direct for Ireland by the way of Liverpool. Francs* Macy is just arrived but not up, I cannot yet learn what passage he has had.

The Maria will be ready to sail by the last of this week, which will be as early as we wish,& will be the first vessell* out; few vessells* frm* here will sail early this year, as only 7 are yet arrived,6 of wch* I gave you an acct* of in my last, but will now repeat them viz; Delano 85--Bennet 85--Pease 77--Brown 77--Gage 50-- Goldsmith 43--(Frs.*Gardners just arrived) 32--I cannot give a particular acct* of the Maria pr.this o[illegible]pty* but may soon; as I mentioned in my last the spirit almost of madness prevails here for the Whale fishery, 30 sails for the Brazils was propos'd, but I think it must fall short for want of headmen. I can only talk in a small circle respecting some indulgence for Nantucket, not knowing what the G. Court has done, only an imperfect acct* wch* I mention'd in my last of a Bounty of Six pounds pr. tun;I hope to be fully inform'd in that respect before long,with every thing interesting to us, but most of all the Situation of our family, wch* is the nearest of all sublinary enjoyments. I beleive there is little prospect of any thing being done by a Commercial treaty favourable to America at present. What time may bring forth, is ~~uncertain~~* unknown; but I heartily wish there had been a more concilatory disposition in our Country at the conclusion of the War, and that the treaty of Peace had been fully and amply ratified and Compli'd with on their part, I am now confirmed in my sentiment when at home that we might have been plac'd upon a very easy footing here, but this by some would be deemed only the sentiment of a Tory; but I can say it is the sentiment of one who is a hearty well

wisher to both America and Brittian. The Magnitude, the Commerce, with the hurry and bussle of this City is amazing, far beyond my expectation; notwithstanding the almost total stagnation of the American Trade yet it seems to make no vacuum in the System. and surely since the peace, if this Country can do with the American trade, it can do better without it;but some of the Nations around envy the great commerce of this Nation, and are laying heavy duties on their manufactures that perhaps, in the end they may effect her. Our Good will go with Lyde who is to sail soon,as this vessell* Capn. Fellows is a Brittish ship, will be subject to some late impositions; the pt. of Bath Bearer cannot be got ready yet. I want to mention many things wch* do not at present occur, & this vessell* being on the point of Sailing, & sooner than I expected,obliged me to close for the present,-with endeared love to you and your dear wives,(my beloved childn*) in wch* Benjamin joins

am your affectionate Father,

Wm. Rotch.

I desire Wm. to take care of that order that respects Rubin Coffin, T. Folger and myself as Folger may want it to whom it may be deld* when needed, I left it laying in the Desk in the east room, at the right hand. Deliver the enclos'd to your Mother.

No.3.

London 8th mo., 19th, 1785.

Dear Samuel & William,

I wrote you the 2nd Inst. No.1 pr. the New York Packet under cover to James Parsons, and the 9th No.2. pr the Hope Capn.Fellows, under cover to Jos. Hussey, who I desird to forward it soon, & to keep a memorandum of the conveyances for my letters forwarded by him to Nantucket,that enquiry may be made if any miscarry, as I expect our inspectors will do as they heretofore done. The Maria went down to Gravesend on first day last,& Moores went to her on fourth day morning & saild* that day or yesterday & is to Stop at Portsmouth,for some things which could not be got ready without detention, he is now just in good Season. there are yet only 7 Southern Whalemen arrivd* here which I mention'd in my last,viz: Delano 85 Tuns* Bennet 85, Pease 77, Brown 77 Gage 50, Goldsmith 43, F, Gardner 40, (instead of 32 as I mentioned in my last) B. Clarke has 550 Barls. & stays till next season winters at the Cape of Good Hope, several others had 2 to 300 Barl., many of the Greenland men are in but I cannot learn(for want of time only) how they have succeeded in general. I intend handing you a list of the present years Southern Fishery as soon as I can ascertain the number likely to go. I would have ship'd some Hemp by Lyde, who takes our other Goods, if he would have taken it, but the late law of Massachusetts, turn'd the Goods to him & fill'd him up, & Fellows geing a Brittish* vessell* went out with very little, so we have to see the fluctuating state of things here. a report prevail'd yesterday that 17 Sails of Moorish vessells* were fitting or fitted out at Sallie to Cruize after American vessells,* but whether that report is circulated upon the same principles as last Spring I know not, but certain it is, it cannot have the same effect as to freight. Hemp is L-25- drawback 66/8 & is likely to be lower, I intend getting some on board Calahan if he will take it.- I recd. a letter from Brother Frans.*pr Calahan, very much discouraging Hussey's future voige, he supposing we have been deceiv'd

 [c 19 Aug 1785] #378

in the quality of the article of our Speculation,I have sent him a Copy of the letter & left him to act as he thought best, but wish'd him to weigh the matter & act accordingly, but I cannot write particular upon this subject least it should fall into the/Inquisitors hands our way.at present their seems no prospect here, of any Treaty of Commerce taking place, nor the duty on oils being remitted, I mean in the general, nor have I had sufficient oppt* to form judgement respecting anything being done for our Island, as I cannot learn how we stand at home, Brother Frans* wrote me a Bounty had passed the House,but stop'd in the Senate. I wish to know what is done, & whether our people are satisfyed; for if we are not plac'd in a Neutral State, no application can be made, but if we were, I fully beleive something may be done here, unless it militates so much against their treatys with other Nations,that it cannot be got over, this I find is a tender point; those concerned in settling Nova Scotia, are powerfully making Interest against us; but as I have had no oppert*of laying our situation before more than two of the Privy Cousel, I cannot form much judgement; they allow it a hard case & unreasonable, & wish something could be done, but I expect if well to be able to write you more full on the subject before long; the Ministry are so taken up with the affairs of Ireland that they cannot attend to small matters.Benjn.* enclos'd you a newspaper pr.Fellows,contain* Copy of a letter fm* Nantucket, respectg* our movements to a Neutrality, I should have expected it was fabricated here, but I think the language appears to come from our own quarters, & I suppose was the second dose given us, the first you may remember was oil said to be ship'd by way of Nova Scotia; there has been some annimadvertions on it in one paper since, wch* I intend to forward you with this, but as yet there has been less said in the public papers than I expected.

There are two vessells* fitting out here under the liberty of the East India Comp. but by private adventure,to that part of America where Capn. Cook obtain'd the skins,(I beleive it was near California,but cannot fully

recollect) that fetchd* so high a price in China, some of his officers are going in the Ships;by what I can find these skins are of a very fine delicate quality, very soft & beautifull, known by the name of Glatton or something like it, but I intend informg* myself better in this respect & let you know.

I have wrote to France to be particularly informed with respect to Oil & Bone,& hope to receive an answer in a few days. Paud Coffin is arrived at Dunkirk with 25 Tuns*and buried his mate Isaiah Bunker,Son of Thos. on his return near the Western Island, he having been sick 5 or 6 months.Paul was here a few days ago, Benjn* saw him but I did not,he bot* our spare Boat, it would not sell here, they prefer the Boats built here, but I am sure I see no reason for it. I have recd* much civility from our frd.S. Enderbey & Sons, with assurances of any assistance in their power, which from some circumstances I beleive is real; they wish to know what prospect there is in the purchase of oil at their limits,which I have no doubt you will be carefull* to communicate to them or me pr. next oppt*.I beleive it will be best to have the Warwick all ready for taking a load of oil, that if any openg* should appear we may make use it; at present I see none, unless you can purchase at Enderbeys limrails? (LIMITS) & load her on frt*., but dont sell ours at that rate, for I have no doubt I can do better than that at some other market. would have you get about a thousand good Whale Irons made,(no lances) as way may open to do it without Money, at Dartmh.* we can do best, but Smith & Sweet must make the heads a little larger, & as we want no lances, some diffr.* in the price of the Coals & Iron will bear, but get good Iron.as I mentioned in my letter I had recd.*Thirty pounds Sterlg.* of Zac Swain to be paid his Father, say L-40 Lmd.* which please to do,if not done, & take two rects* & to forward me one. I have since recd.* of Wm. Akins L-4.3.3. Stg. if L-5.11 Lmd. for Benj. Taber it being in full for Akins note to Taber dated 6th mo.6, 1775 for 72/ Int. 39/ isL-5.11 Lmd. pay it & take his rect.* the Note for L-16-- he refuses to pay, wch to mention to Tabor. I have also recd* ~~[illegible]~~* fiveteen* Guinns* of Eben Akins & have given him a Bill on our house for L-20-Lawfull my* payd*? to his father Elihue Akins, I shall receive a number of Small Sums

#3p4

here to be paid in America, wch I shall draw Bills for, from time to time, & will do very well. I have not time to add at present except my endeared love to you yr. dear Wives & the rest of the Childn.*

am yr. affectionate Father,

Wm. Rotch

P.S. inclosed is a letter for yr. dr. Mother & Eliz.& if time shall write to them of the Childn.- I hope to set off for Falmt. in a week or ten days, but to make a short stay.

#4 p1

London, 9th mo. 5th, 1785.

Dear Sons, Saml. & Wm.

I shall continue to repeat the several conveyances I have wrote you by, untill I hear of their coming to hand, shall then drop them in course, this method will give you an oppty* to enquire for the letters if they do not come to hand. No. 1-8th mo. 2d. pr the New York Packet under cover to James Parsons, N. 2-9th pr the Hope, Capn. Fellows N. 3- 19th pr Capn Lyde, both for Boston under cover to Jos. Hussey, who I desired to keep a Memdm. of the conveyances he forwarded them by the Maria said'd from Spithead on first day, the 28th ult. after laying there sometime for some matters to be sent here, wch* I could not get ready for her untill that time, nor then fully to my mind, in which time Barns Gardner broke out with the Small Pox, was put on shore and is at a very good place near Portsmouth, has it full and his case is uncertain, though not without hope of his recovery, I hope to hear before I close this letter, Benjn.* has been to him, and left him not dispirited; if he is now living it must have turned; the other hands were all well. We had fully settled the matter on the passage for all those who had not pass'd the disorder, to be innoculated on their arrivals, and I know not why they alter'd their intentions, but I understood it was their choice to suspend it, which am sorry for, ~~&c~~ though I suppose the others have escap'd it. I beleive I wrote you before, I had sent Hussey a Copy of Brother Francis's letter and wrote him, discourageg* his proceedig* on the Cantons last destination, he having been (enisted)(interested)? in the Animals and that with the enormous expence of Port Charges & duties, with the unbounded impositions of every kind, must I think considering he is 74, consern'd*, make him cautious in embarking at so great a risque, hope he will defer it till futher information, which I shall endeavour to gain when oppty* presents.

I have not yet informed you that I have had the perusals of Capt. Cooks Journals, in which I find an acct* of a very valuable furr which he found in the N.W. part of the Continent of America, in Latitude 56 Nt. which

#4 p2

was sold in China at the Enormous price of 100 Dolls* pr. skin the best kind, & is
he mentions it by the name of the Sea Otter, ~~&~~ a very fine furr I beleive they have not been met with in any part of America that we have been conversant with; two Ships are fitting out here, under the approbation of the East India Comp. in quest of those Skins, intendg* to dispose of them in China. Shubl. Coffin in the Mary arriv'd off Dover the 1st inst. from the Falkland Islands, with 40 Tuns of oils his own and 90 out of the United States, I need not mention any particulars as this will be accompanied with a letter frm* Hussey to Wm. by which you will be informed they were all well, and Whippey had got 300 Bls. Sperm & 110 Bls. Whale with 3 Whales Bone and his voige ruind* almost by bad lines which we got of Cary and pd him Cash for.- I had a letter also frm.Hussey much to the same purpose as Wms.

I also recd* a letter frm T. Folger the 3rd Inst.fm Hallifax dated the 25th 7th mo., giving me an acct* among other things that our familys were well the 15th or 16th of the same mh*(month) which I was truly glad to hear,though not long after we left you, he wrote me very short on the Subject of his business there,promisg* to give me a full account pr next conveyance, wch* wish may be soon; I suppose by those movements nothing was likely to be done as to setting our Island at liberty,wch* if is the case wish I could have known it in time, that I might have done something here for ourselves, which I avoided purely on acct* of the Island, that I might not by any means put the least discouragament to anything being done here for the Island, but sure I am,in vain will any application be here untill that Island is put in a Neutral State,unless the duty should be taken off in the general, wch at present there is not the least prospect of. the affairs of Ireland of a late tax on Shops has given great liberty for the writers in the public papers to exercise their pens, some reproaching the Ministry, others justifying them,that upon the whole it is an unfavourable time for cool discussion or any applications to Government-it will be with the greatest difficulty

that anything can be done in favr* of American built Ships here, the Navigation Act is so full against the Measure, that it is difficult to slip over it, however desirious the Ministry may be to favour particular cases, we are now preparing to enter upon our long journey to the West of England, about 300 Miles out, which I heartly wish was over, but I think I shall be inexcuseable, to come thus far, and not be able to make up some judgement of the propriety of removing to this Country if necessity should urge it, (I mean respectg* the suitableness of the different places for the fishery.) I am much urg'd by all ranks to remove into this kingdom; yet I never wish to be compelled at this time of life to such a Step, though I see no way at present for the Inhabitants to subsist at my Native spot. I mention'd in my last that I had drawn a Bill in favour of Elishu Akins for Twenty One pounds Lmd., & also to pay Charles Swain Forty pounds Lmd. for his son Zac & Benj. Tabor L-5.11 Lmd., I recd* of Wm. Akins., I beleive what we do respectg* our vessells** & oils must be through Nova Scotia, though I have not yet had sufficient oppty* to know what can be done here; but if I live to return from the West, shall then be able to attend to our business. I have just now recd* two letters frm* Hallifax of 27th & 28th 7 mh.(month) frm* Brother Starbuck & T. Folfer, with an Acct* of the Encouragement frm* that quarter, the very Idea of a Removal strikes me disagreeably, yet I see no other way for the Inhabitants of our Island to subsist, as the Massachusetts will not do what they ought to do for that Island. I doubt verbal promises of the Governor & will have too much influence, as in several cases they are worth nothing, for if nothing can be done effectually here, they will only mislead our people, & add ruin to ruin; was it not for prejudice I have against Nova Scotia, I doubt not it ould fix my Ideas in its favour, as I have recd* a very good acct. of its Situation, but there are several things to be firmly fix'd by Government before people of much property can remove with safety; and after that to be certain of a Number of our Society, sufficient to be allow'd a Monthly Meeting, otherwise we may soon become a poor scattered people, who in this day needs every help to gather & cement us to the true head of the Church.

[25 Sep 1785]

#4 p4

it requires a serious consideration to remove where there are no friends; if I should live to return from the West; I hope then to be able to give you some better information, both with respect to this Country and Nova Scotia, with the probability of the necessary attention in Government to such a step,- pray in-form Saml & Tim. of the reception of their letters, & I shall attend to their business at my return wch. will be if I should be well as early as any thing can be done to advantage.

Not having time to add though there are many things more I want to mention which must postpone I am with endeared love to you, yr. dear wives & all our family your affectionate Father,

Wm. Rotch.

P.S. I have drawn a set of 2 bills, in favr* of Mary Baxter widdow vallue of her Son Shub. Coffin for Thirteen pounds Six & 8 Lmd. inclosed is a letter for yr. dr. Mother

have not heard frm. Gardner since the 31 ult. hope by that he is recoverg* as Capn. W. Akins is there & has charge of him & to write up.

No. 2

LONDON, 11th mo, 1st, 1785

#4.2

My dear son Thomas

As my tender offspring from whom I am so far seperated, are the frequent companion of my mind, especially you that are the younger branches; desires are at times rais'd in my heart for your preservation from all hurtful things and my dear son, let it be thy constant care to watch over thy own conduct, i thy steppings along through the slippery paths of youth, for we have as thou hast often heard, & perhaps known, an unwearied enemy, always watching to tak an advantage of us, and if he can only divert the mind from a good thought, h gains one point, and as we give way to one little thing after another, he advances forward, untill he gets greater possession of our heart, and so step b step, as our strength to oppose him decreases, untill we become a prey to the Enemy of all good; but I hope better things of thee my son, and that thou wil be favour'd to take counsel of the great Councellor in thy own heart which wi preserve thee from evil, and also the counsel of thy dear Mother & Elder Brothers & Sisters; and I hope thou will so conduct as to be a comfort to us, we are all subject to temptation but it is no crime to be tempted; for the crime is in yeilding to the temptation, & as a watch word let me impress the valuab saying in thy mind, "when Sinners entice thee consent thou not." I wrote to thee the 2'd of the 8th mo which I hope thou rec'd long since, and I wish tho would not neglect writing to me, and let me know from time to time how the fa ily is whith thyself, for it is a great great comfort to me to be inform'd of your wellfare. Not having time to enlarge, accept mine & Benj'm love in which I am thy affectionate

Father
W. Rotch

[? No. 1785]

No. 5

William Rotch and Sons
Nantucket.

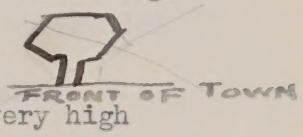
#5 p1

London 11th mo., 2nd., 1785.

My Dear Sons. Saml* & Wm.

I have recd.* all the letters you have mention'd to have sent pp to the 8th mth.*11th pr. Geo. Folger, who I have not yet seen, he having with his owner Bolyston on Bd.(board) arrived and gone to France(before we returned) to seek a market for his Oil, which I beleive he may do,preferably to this.we returned to this City the 22nd, after making a circuitory rout of 8 or 900 miles through the kingdom, and as we have vissited* the Sea Coast:--that is the harbours that we thought worth notice, from South Hampton to ~~Fa*****h**~~ Falmth*, I shall give you a short description of them with my judgement thereon in some respects. We left London the 6th of the 9th month in a violent wind to the SW., which was a near mere Hurricane in some parts of the Channel, & did much damage to the Shipping in several places, we first proceded to South Hampton, nearly opposite the middle millde of the Isle, a fine capatious harbour, with a fertile Country bound it,-but a great resort in the bathing season of fashionable people frm.* both City and Country,which makes provision of Rents high, and a place where too much gaity & disapation abounds, unsuitable to bring a family in our way; nor are there any friends there. we then proceded to Limington, noted for making Salt,but did not like the situation. Christ Church was next but a small shallow harbour by no means well adapted. we then proceeded to Poole-a fine harbour but with a long crooked narraw Channel up to it,yet water enough, a place of very considerable business,& increasing good places for Wharves & houses, with easy port Charges, some friends there, & would do very well, if no better place could be found, the greatest aversion I have to it is;-it is surrounded for a great extent of many miles with barren heath,though there is some good land near the Town; but in small proportion. it is a good place for Ship Buildg, though considerably dearer than in our part of America as is the case throughout Engld* and in some places very high. we then visited, Bridport & Lime, two small harbours, by no means for our purpose; the next was Tingmouth, a very fine Harbour though

Small, with a bar before it, of 16 feet at high water, I should have little objection to this place, were there not several far superior, & the want of agreeable Society, we now came to Dartmouth, wch* we used to speak of in our own Country, this is a fine Harbour, of easy access, except the wind blowg* right out, when a vessell* may lay at the mouth ready to come in when favorable, not more than a mile from the entrance of the Town, is capable of receiving a very large number of vessells wch* may ride secure against all winds, has a remarkable fine Key of great extent it is built on front of the Town but detached a little distance so that we enter it by a bridge, it is on a kind 5 Square that vessells come all round it except just where the Bridge is, wch* is not more than 20 feet wide, is in somewhat this form:



is near 1300 feet round-this harbour and Town is surrouded with very high land, the Streets, wch* are but two in length, very narrow, the back street near 20 feet above the front, the houses being built against a high steep hill, the top of wch* overlooks the top of the highest houses I believe 2 or 300 feet, in going out of Town, we have too steep an ascent of near a mile to make it pleasant, the town being surrounded with such very high hills is the greatest objection I have; at wch* Benjn* smiles, telling me such an objection will hardly bear for me, supposing I would seldom want to go out of Town, therefore very little inconvenience to me. Our next port was Plymouth- a noble Harbour with various branches from its entrance unexceptionable as to its situation as well as the Country round it in every respect, yet one great objection remains that is, there is a large Dock Yard & Magazines for the Royal Navy, many being built here, & many laid up in ordinary in this harbour in time of Peace, & a great din of war in the time of war, which would be very disagreeable to us, yet there are two Towns, one of which is the Seat of Naval and Military business, the other of common Merchant business.- We then visited Loo., found it a Shallow Harbour of abt* 10 feet of water at high water therefore may be pass'd by. the next we came to was Fowey- commonly called Foy-this is a fine deep harbour but as near like Dartmouth as hardly to need any other description respecting the surroundg* heights; it

once had a fine trade,wch* was some years back removd* to Falmh.* We now come to the last in the channels that demands our attention,and that is Falmouth. notwithstanding the land where this Town stands is higher than I would wish, yet there is such an extent of situation after entering this harbour, that one is not confined to Falmth* Town but may have a Choice of many miles, so that this place is suffucient to answer every purpose of convenience, and I think taking a general view is rather preferable to the rest; but Plymh* & Poole are also good situations.we intended to have gone to Milford Haven,but business calling me to London was obliged to omit, it for the present, with some expectation if life & health is afforded to see it in the Spring. I suppose it is(Milford) the best harbour in England or Wales,it is surrounded with a fine fertile Country being a part of South Wales, abounds with provisions & Coals & has more wood in its Neighbourhood than any other harbour that I am acquainted with; Ship buildg* is also cheaper here than any other part that I know of. it is very near Ireland which I look upon as some advantage; upon the whole I believe this port the best adapted for number of Poor People, but for my own part I should prefer one of the Ports in the English Channel and many of them before London. I find the land holders of the different Ports are fond of encouraging our comg* here, but I have positively declared that we will never submit to settle on land under the usual tenures, which are on leases for three lives, the persons on whom the lives are fixed must be named; when a life drops ~~it~~* it is a commom practice, for the lease holder to pay a sum wch* they call a fine & put in another life, but without a stipulated fine at first agreement. it increases as the lands ~~become~~* become more valuable, & finally is at the will of the Proprietor whether to suffer lives to be renew'd, and if he is avericious, he may refuse, & when three lives are gone, may take all with the improvements into his own hands;wch* I would never submit to,nor will it be necessary if we are ever obliged to come here, by reason, we can settle on better terms. after viewing the Sea Coast, we took a turn to Bristol,thence through several Counties as far North as

Shropshire & then to London, particulars of the rout intend mentiong* in yr* dr. Mothers letter I have now given you a little acct* of the Sea Coast, which I viewed with many painful hours, on reflecting on the cause of my Journey, which had nothing in it pleasing but seems altogether of a compulsory nature, in a prospect of being oblig'd to abandon our native land,occasioned by the most ruinous system of conduct at present that perhaps ever befell any people. but so it is suffered to be,though I beleive in judgement rather than in Mercy, and notwithstandg this is a fine country & I beleive may have many encouragements yet, I desire heartily,if it may be consistent with Divine Providence, some way may be open'd to render it unnecessary to quit our habitations, though I confess, I have no prospect of that being the case; but whatever we do, I hope it will be with a clear evidence that we are right and then no doubt a blessing will attend, if not an increase of the things of this World, yet an encrease of peace of mind, which is far superior to that of Corn wine or oils; I am so favored in this respect as only to desire to be rightly conducted in this important matter,whether to remain or remove. I am now attending to the Hallifax petion & whether I shall be able to hand you any result thereon, or even any well grounded judgement, of the encouragement that Government will give,by this conveyance is uncertain, but shall endeavor that no time shall be lost in communicating the necessary when I am possess'd with any knowledge on the Subject. if we could have got into a State of Natarily(Neutrality), I could have obtain'd great assistance here to have had some indulgence for the Island, which I cannot but hope would have been attended with some good success, but being held as a part of the United States, precludes any attempt in that line. Enderby & Sons recd*yrs. of the 8th mth* 16th advising that some purchases for France has prevented yr.purchasing any more than abt* 50 Tuns, indeed I am glad that the holders of oil can do better than we can do for them, for at the best Market under our present situation there must be a loss.I rather doubt your being able to get the Warwicks away,but probably

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must ship what you have purchas'd in some other vessell,unless you can get some other kind of frt*. I have spoken to Enderby on that head, that if they Insure, they may have liberty in some other vessell, but I believe they will not cover it.I shall not need any money sent for my own use having enh* here for the next twelve months to come, as I took the ships Canvass for her Sails off & Sd.* least I should not have money en*. the other stores are all paid for, nor shall I take any money of Enderby on acct* of the oils you ship them,therefore you may draw without any regard to me,remember to give Saml* Elliot the preference in Bills;except you can sell them on the Spot & save the Risque of the money. I do not know how we are to remit Cdt. their balle* when due, if it must be done in Specie, don't send untill the moderate season comes round.-we have heard much said of the heavy taxes of this Nation indeed they are great, and must be so, so long as such an enormous debt hangs upon them, & notwithstandg* almost everything is tax'd, yet the resources are so great that the taxes are paid regularly, and Stocks rise almost daily, & there are at this day more buyers than sellers; money is exceedg* plenty,this must be admitted as an evident truth by the value of it; it being lower now than at any period for a long time. the tax laid on me for 83- I mean our Town and State; would even in this City pay more than my house rent and Taxes of every kind, allowg* me also to be in a large trade that might afford a large profit;It is therefore not for want of promisg* prospects here in pecuniary matters, far beyond what my own Country can afford, that makes me averse to shifting my quarters; but from a strong attachment to America, and particularly to Nantucket,which has afforded me such ample resources, in years that are gone over and gone,I mean the Inhabitants, not the place, nevertheless, I believe America will yet be a noble Country in some future time, but a day of adversity she probably will have first to pass through for her wretched conduct since the peace which has brought her into great contempt in the eyes (I believe I may say) of all nations acquainted with her, however spacious their appearance may be toward her to answer their own purpose, but after all, I fully believe things might

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be much mended between America and this nation, were the United States to set heartily about fulfilling the treaty of peace according to the Spirit and intent of it; but so long as that Haughty Spirit remains, and the most flagrant breach of a treaty of their own making still subsists, a reconciliation cannot take place, for it is now too late to frighten this nation into a compliance with things they see to be oppos'd to their Interest, though that might have been done at the Settlement of the peace, but that time is lost. I fear the Algerenes will be a sad scourge to us, though I long to hear that a peace is conducted with them, but how can we wonder, that they are permitted to make Captives of us; when after such solemn protestations in favour of liberty wch* have been so plentifully pour'd forth, though we now find with polluted lips in some, that some of these very people should now be engaged in the African trade for Slaves, witness the vessells* from Boston & Newport & the sale of them in Carolina, surely as more light hath of late been defused on that subject, a relapse into such horrid iniquity will probably bring a heavy judgement on America*; in wch* I believe this Nation will partake, for her great iniquity in that unrighteous traffick*, but Friends here have begun the work of layg* the wickedness before the Nation, & the other desenters as a body are about taking it up, that I believe it will not be lost, untill* something is accomplished. how has my pen been straying from business, but it is occasioned from a deep sorrow for the State of our Island, wch* led me a little into the general cause, & consequently caus'd some deep reflections, which I could hardly smother in my own breast; though it seems to be beside the line of my intended or necessary communications. before this reaches you, you will probably hear Zacchery Coffin is taken by the Algerenes, I intend writting Shub'l the particulars to whom I refer you.

The more I think of the Hallifax matter, the more sorry I am that any hasty step is taken untill it is known what Government will do in the case, I know from the nature of the business there was an apparent necessity of a speedy attention to it; yet it is so uncertain how it will operate**

here, that I confess I am at a loss how to form a judgement for myself; for however desirious Governor Par, with the people in general may be to promote such a settlement, which is certainly founded on good reason, yet the main points necessary to be done to render it of any use to our Inhabitants, is intirely out of the Governor's power I fear, my doubts do not arise from any apprehension, of its being a measure not worthy the particular attention of this nation, but rather from viewing the pursuits of nations, to matters of little consequence, and neglecting material ones as though below their notice, and untill a thing is effected, we can never judge with any degree of certainty, what ground we are to stand upon which I beleeve will be no disservice; he seem'd desious that we should be help'd but saw no way while we were a part of the United States; there are many that commiserate our situation,but none that finds the remedy I could wish. I am now attending on the Hallifax Memorial, which wears a more favoable aspect than heretofore; we were on 6th day last at Lord Sydneys office,who is Secretary to the American department, to desire it put forward, as I had stay'd it until then;while we were conversing with his Secretary,Mr Guy Carlton came in, & as he is going out Governor Generale of Canada, Nova Scotia etc., the Secretary handed him the Memorials to read, which he perus'd & hop'd there were no difficulties in the way to prevent its being attended to, I then put into his hand the State of our Island, which I had drawn up as before mention'd, on having it read, he expressed his full approbation of the truth of it, & that we ought to have some special favours granted; but all that will be under the condition of removing into the Brittish Government; he is a plain agreeable man, & having known him at New York, we had a good deal of a chat; . In the course of conversation, he paid us a respectfull* compliment, (if a compliment it may be called) speaking of friends, he look'd upon Benj. & myself, and says:"there is a certain decency in your society which I wish all the World possessed," wch* I beleive was the reall* sentiment of his heart,he being a man not given to flattery.

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As there is no prospect of any indulgence to our Island in its present situation as I have before mentioned:I am now endeavoring to find the best encouragement for those that are obliged to remove into the Brittish Government, leaving each to his own choice, whether Nova Scotia or any other part, which I expect will soon be determined on; and after all that is done I should heartily rejoice to find some opening that would render it unnecessary to quit the Island, but nothing of that yet appears,and I fear will not. When Morey sail'd I wrote Hussey by him,discouraging his proceedg* on the last plan of the Cantons voige,as I wrote you before, but leaving it to him to decide; if he gave it up I advised that Ships coming here, since which when I was at Falmh*, I wrote to Mosey by Barney Ray, advising him and Whippey both to touch at Barbados on their return & inquire for letters, but if none were found there, then to proceed here according to our first plan, but it uncertain whether Ray sees him; but I hope it will not be long before I shall be able to find, whether it will be best for the Ships to come here or go to Hallifax, that place being the alternative in my view, & perhaps it may be most eligible to go there to be clear of the duty rather than here, when I find from headquarters, wch* is preferable; I shall forward letters there, (Barbados) accordingly. A. Champion has a letter by the way of Liverpool fm* B. Hussey. at the Isld***dated sometime in the 7th mh, 6 weeks after the first, he had got in the whole abt* 1300 barls.& 27 tuns bone,(no great for the time) Whippey has 630 bls. abt** half and half with proportion of bone. I took lock 480-- the concern we proposed for F.*--in the Canton is dropp'd-we have our ¾ in every respect.- if it will answer the same purpose I had rather the Ships should go to Hallifax, for unless there is a peace obtained with the Algerines,, it will be very dangerous passing fm* the Southward to this Island. I am glad you have kept our oil, as it will not do at this market to pay the duty, better markets may be found elsewhere, the price in France under their duty is better than this.Geo. Folger is still in France, they have drawn of their oils to get the thin part,cannot find what they sold at. I have one object in view for a Small quanty* of Oil, in which I cnnot yet get full information.

Enderby is glad of the oils pr. the Warwick, but complains of it falling short in gage more than usual,beside one caske over gauged 5gs. wch* if so must be a mistake, we shall see to it. I have recd* of them L-240 Stg., L-200 of which with the 116gs.pr. Mitchell (wch* fell short in Wgt 3819) amt. to L-119.27.3-making 319.17.3 I have pd. Champion & Dickison and am in hopes when you send Enderbey's Acct.* Currt* that I shall make out L-100 more for them, as the boat board will help out, those I sold them, say 9935 feet at L-6 Stg. L-59.12--you must not draw on them for any more,the L-1000 to S.E.(wch* are come to hand and accepted) as I mentioned in a former letter you might do it;having now appropiated it as before mentioned(to C.& D.acct) The Warwick had a good passage arrived in the Downs the 6th ult. but by unfavorable weather did not get up till the 13th.-Enderby & Dickason then had a prospect of a better market for the oil by exporting it, & reported it for that purpose, E. then desired the vessel might lay a few days to determine, this detained her nine days & come to nothing, Dickason only comply's with E,'s.choise because he had the chief of the Cargo,his not being an object; then we put the vessel up for Boston engaging not to sail till the 10th-- but there was not frt* enh* appear'd, to send her that way, therefore we chose to have none, that from one circumstance and another she has been unexpectedly detained three weks extra,but no fault of the Master,he having attended his business well, she now goes direct to Nantucket with hardly a package but our own, she has 15 Tuns hemp instead of 20, having ship'd 5 before,pr Capn. Davis; had the season for a passage been more favorable, I would have had her fill'd up with hemp, which I think is a good article, and good of its kind cost I believe L-24.10,wch*with the drawbacks will reduce it to a moderate price, they have broke up but about $\frac{1}{4}$ of it so that about $\frac{3}{4}$ is in the originals bundles, I hope you will be able to sell it for Cash, if it cannot be sold at our Island, it may be best to see to the Markets in Boston & Providence before it is taken out of the vessel& may be best to transport it in her, for if put in a small* vessell, it must be all broke up which

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injures it much. I have with the large pots added 2 tuns of small ones for cooking, you will find these a very advantageous article as they all go by wt* here down to the Smallest & will all sell by tab* with us the largest at a good advance, & the smallest at a great proffit*, we may have any kind of Small Iron ware at the same rate here such as skillets, bakg* pans, Cart boxes etc. I should have taken a quanty* of Skillets, but the legs were too short, for our kind of coals, for here they set them on top* of the fire, therefore if you send for any give directions for the length of the legs. I am much pleased with the Warwick she is so handsomely and well done, I hope you have paid the Man well as he has done her so faithfully;- I wish you could find some business for her if she returns safe, untill next whaling season to the Southward, for I think the prospect to the Northward is not worth pursuing. if Indian Corn is cheap I believe a load of that article would do in the Bay of Biscay; & the Cost will not be much, if you have a mind to try it,& can make a barter for it, I would advise her touching at Cork in Ireland where I would lodge letters to direct him; or perhaps a pot of Potash & may be got at Norwich, all which I submit to your judgment*. I shall order our goods in her insur'd out, but am undetermined* about the vessell.* Mitchell was obliged to get a Cable and Anchor in the Downs before the Pilot would take Charge of him,wch* cost 60 odd pounds, the loss in the purchase & expence perhaps aboutL-25.- I wrote you sometime to get a quanty more whale bone, but would have you proceed no farther than already engag'd, as like our boats, they are grown out of repute here. if the Current Exchange for good bills did not exceed 5 pct., I hope S.E. refused giving 6, I wish to keep on the top, but in such a case it is unnecessary to go beyond.* I see no cause to alter our correspondents here, they are as good a house as we can be connected with, & the real friendship I bear toward them, creates pity to see them in such embarrass'd circumstances for want of remittances.-I am glad to find you have sent the Falkland & Bedford a whaling. I fully approve your taking the Spy,wish she was on that business also,

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provided she had a good Master. hope you have been able to purchase the little quanty* of head matter you propos'd,as it will make a little business. I wish to know whether Folger recd* the L-200 at the Nincryd of Geyers, wch* I was to have, I am afraid he neglected it. desire Jos, Hussey to keep pushing the matter forward on Ingraham, but not to commence a suit, as I hope to get it by easier methods, but it must be in that Country, by a letter frm* him(J.H.) by the last ship, he informs me he had recd* only L-94 since I came away but had repeated promises as usual. The Ceres frm* Boston which brother Frances intended to have taken passage in, is cast away in Bolonge Bay on the French Coast, pretty well up Channel, after getting ashore, they put out the Boat, in wch* was one man, After putting in their money about ~~L*18~~ L-6000 Stg., & the letters, the Boat overset, the man was drowned, & the money and letters lost, since wch* the letters are found,I had two by her, one frm* brother Frans. the other from Jos. Hussey,the money not found by the last acct*. I find by Mitchell the L*1470 Tax is not livied; indeed I should have thought very strange if it was, yet no wonder there are a few advocates for it, the tenor of whose conduct throughout has evidentily been unifomly to raise themselves into consequence at the expense & ruin of the Town, and particularly to saddle us with a treble portion, which while they can do that & pay but little themselves,that destructive ambition will not be allay'd, however I hope you will remonstrate over & over again before it is suffer'd to be levied, nor ought that sum ever to be done, we paid in our most flourishing time about L-12 to the Thousd* and this is 10, in our distressed state.- if there should be an opening for me to order the Canton here, I shall want the Indentures of the Masters of some of the Blacks, with their full power,not only to retain their present voiges, but to secure those whose apprenticeship may not have expir'd in future vizt*(namely) Geo. Lawrence for his Black man, Peter Macy for his Boy-and a full Power frm* Edward Bourn of Sandwich for his Jo Cunnet, he gave me a power, but it is limited to the present voiges, after which he may keep what he in future carry in his own hands & deprive his Master

#5p12

of it. I shall also want something from Shubl*(Shuball) Lovele respectg* his Jo Tobey,we ought to have Lovells acct* against him with a Power, & our acct* against Lovele will be necessary, I dont recollect the other Blacks nor their situation, these precautions will be necessary, though uncertain whether he will call at Barbados or not, for want of advice, Its also uncertain yet whether it will be of service.

I would advice you to keep up a full stock of cooperstuff of all kinds, for it will always be a good article.- I intended to have sent you a particular list of the Southern Whalemen by this conveyance, but doubt being able to procure it timely; they can send out about 12 Ships frm* here with as good head men as can be found anywhere,(mostly our former Inhabitants) the others but indifferent, yet may succeed better than those, as we sometimes see.-I want much to be in Ireland a few weeks, but know not how to come at it, without more detention in the Spring than I am willing to give up, yet I think in the last extremity something may be done to advantage.

I mentioned in a former letter, Wm. Folger was cast away & with some of the Crew lost, since which we find he & his mate were* well; four men were lost.- You will find my letter without system,or regularity, as I pen things as they come into my mind.-if hemp should be in demand & will sell for Cash let me know as soon as possible, that more may be sent out; you must see when remittances are due to Cgd.. and keep them up, if no other way, money must be sent in the Spring.- if there should be any prospect of a paper Currency taking place in the Massachusetts and you find any probability of M.Gill inclining to discharge his Note in that way, dont take it at any rate, but if you fear such a thing, with reason, call before such a Currency takes place, but if no danger, I had rather it should remain on Interest;the Note mentions Gold or Silver, but how far they may endeavor to supercede special contracts is uncertain.- We have no acct* from Zacchery Coffin since I wrote before, but expect it soon, in the mean time, everything is done that can be done, until further intelligence is recd*, & then if his ransom is not

of it. I shall also want something from Lloyd(Bancroft) Jarvis regarding his
to Tobey,as ought to have Jarvis assist against him with a View, & our assis-
against Jarvis will be necessary. I dont recollect the other Blacks nor their
situation, these precautions will be necessary, though unnecessary whether he
will deal at Barbadoe or not, for want of advice, It's also uncertain yet whether
it will be of service.

I would advise you to keep up a full stock of cooperage of all
kinds, for it will always be a good article.- I intended to have sent you
a particular List of the Bordeaux Coopers by this conveyance, but doubt
being able to procure it timely; they can send out about 12 Tuns there
with as good Head men as can be found anywhere,(mostly are Clever Journeymen)
the others not indifferent, yet my counsel better than theirs, as to conditions
&c.-I want much to be in Ireland a few weeks, but know not how to come at it,
without more declension in the Office than I am willing to give up, yet I think
in the last extremity something may be done to advantage.

I mentioned in a former Letter, Mr. Palmer was sent away with
some of the Crew Lost, since which we find he is this more wary; four
men more lost.- Ten will find my Letter without system,or regularity, as I
put things as they come into my mind.-If Capt Arnold be in demand I will sell
for Cash let me know as soon as possible, that more may be sent out; you must
see when remittances are due to Us.. and keep them up, if no other way, money
must be sent in the Spring.- If there should be any prospect of a Paper
Currency taking place in the Massachusetts and you find any probability
of M.Gill hesitating to discharge his Note in that way, dont take it at any
rate, but if you find such a thing, with reason, will believe such a Currency
takes place, but if no danger, I dont believe it should vessels or Interest;the
Note mentions Cash or Silver, but how far they may endeavor to supersede
special contracts is uncertain.- We have no news from Boothby Griffin since
I wrote before, but expect it soon, In the mean time, everything is done that
can be done, until further intelligence is recd. & then if his reason is not

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very unreasonable the money I believe will be rais'd without difficulty by subscription, for here are a noble Spirited liberal people in this Nation, if you could procure a good frame for a Ship of 200 or 220 Tuns(midlingsharp) in the barter line, about Dartmh* to be built at Bedford, I would have you do it, perhaps G. Claghorn would undertake & build her if we succeed, but the timber should like to have provided as soon as possible, & put into the Salt water. if I find it will not do to build her there, we can transport it,I hope to be able to write you fully on this head pr next oppoty*.

If we have money in Joseph Husseys hands, wish you would direct him to send me One hundred Guinneas pr first good oppty*in the Spring, they must be 5 ug*(Jwe qr)* also a Barrels of good Cranberries if reasonable. I shall give you the earliest intelligence, I can of the success Hallifax business, which may be a government about any of our removals, and if thou my son Saml* should see thy way clear to remove, shall furnish thee with property sufficient to do business* with, provided I am favour'd to retain mine untill that period, as it has long been my judgement, that the assistance of a parent in this respect can never be better bestow'd than in the early period of life, where Children conduct* with propriety,- should thou think it best to remove in the Spring and should not hear from me again before,thou may go forward with such property of vessels, stores,oils, bone etc,as thou with Wm. think proper.*—

I intirely forgot to learn any direction for the payment of my mother-in-law her annuity of L-3- Lmd wch* was due the 24th of last month, I hope you or bror* Frs* has thought of it,if not, pray do it as soon as possible with Interset, & as Frs* will be come away, please to write to Hervey & Anthony to enquire whether he has remitted it, & if not for them to pay it. I desire you would pay Bartlet Coffin (Samls.*neighbor) Sixty pounds Sterling & take two recpts* (recd* of Robt. Calef by our hands) & send me one as soon as may be, for I shall not take the money untill I have the recd* you may

#5p14

likewise send a copy of the rect* by another oppty* wch* may have serve to shew it is paid if the rect* should miscarry,Calep was about sendg*out the money in specie by me when I should go, but this will answer our purpose better. I have sent 3 casks lintseed oil bot of Enderby, which comes out @ about 2/72 pr. gl. & will do perhaps,if no extra expence on it when you have oppty,(with out money) to purchase good Cedar Boards, you may get 20 thousand & lay by, but not ship them untill further directions, see that they are good. There is a box of Garden Seed for the Widdow Hayley onbd*(inboard) wch* your particular case is requested to forward them soon,perhaps to Providence, if no direct oppty- by Water to Boston,as it may go down in pr Coach. There are also Letters off the Warwick for Boston, Rhod &I (Rhode Island) wch* we have been requested may be forwarded by you.- The Keys of the two trunks are in Mitchells care.- a letter latter directed to Thos. & Geo. Eddy, Philada, we are desir'd to forward as soon as possible, if it gets into some post office it will do.- a list of the Whalemen from here is procured & will be sent by Benjn.- I have sent for Benjn* Taber 2 bibles cost 42 Sh. Sterg. if the money I directed to pay L-5.11 Laid Md. is not paid him,it must be taken out of that sum, & if it is paid he must repay you. perhaps you may get a frt.* of flax seed for the Warwick for Ireland. I have pd. Mitchell 1-35.6.11 Stg. for Warwicks use wch* I only mention to enable you to calculate her voige, as it was just the amt* of his acct- to that time, some other matters will turn up before he goes to Sea, wch* he will plan to acct* & settle with you; I don't know her frt* will turn out as C. & D. have pd* the other expences.-

Mitchell is to leave us tomorrow morning, the vessell is gone down to Gravesend I must therefor close, after comparing my incoherent bulky budget, to our valuable frd, D. Howland observation in another case, (to whom give my love when oppy.) that is, what is wantg in quality, I have made up in quanty*, as many matters are for your own perusal only, you will distinguish them.--I am with endeared love to you all, yr*

affectionate father,
W. R.

[illegible] 1785

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Pray let me hear frm* you as often as pooible, dont forget the Packet at N. York. I intended to have handed you a list of the vessels from this Kingdom on the Southern Fishery, but cannot do it by this oppty. I believe there are 22 fitted out this year, and 5 out of that saild* last year, one of which was Benjn. Clark, is expected daily having 85 Tuns by the last acct* Shut. Gardner is arrived in France with 600 Barrls., 4000tuns bone, what part is Sperm I cant yet learn. if you can get the Warwick away, I hope she will be here soon, as I am anxious to hear from home. Not having time to add any further historical acct* at present, the Mails being within an hour of closing, must conclude, therefore with endeared love to you, with my dear daughters, your wives, (to whom I intended to write but cannot now) I am your affectionate father,

~~Wm*Rotch~~

Wm. Rotch.

P.S.

I hope to write you again by another vessell bound for N. York, in about 3 weeks. This goes pr N. York Packet.- I have been this day on the Hallifax matter & am as usual to call tomorrow.

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London 12th mo. 14th, 1785

My Dear Sons Samuel & William,

I duly recd* your favour of the 9th mo. 28th.pr. the Warwick; and shall reply to the severale parts necessary, and give every information that I can recollect that may be usefull or entertaining. I have been cautious in writing some particulars respectg* our own business, which doubtless you have thought strange of, unless you recollected the cause,(the attention of our inspectors) and notwithstanding I ever mean to conduct myself in political matters in a line that will bear the strictest examination,yet there are many family concerns which we would not wish to expose to the public eye. I shall begin with the Maria;this Ship is gone out without any alteration from the State she was in when we arriv'd. I failed getting her put in the line I intended in the first attempt, being an intire stranger here, & to the mode of application,I amde a friend of one of the Lords of the PrivyCouncel,frm* whence I justly suppos'd that assistance I wanted was come, he prov'd my reale friend, and got it in a good train, with the positive assurance that everything I wish'd should be done, & as the Ship was ready, I might send her down, and convey the necessary to her at Portsmouth where she was order'd, accordingly she sailed to the place appointed; but my friend thought it necessary for it to pass through a certain office, held by one of the Lords of the Councele to whom I apply'd, but unhappily (I then thought) his Secretary through the influence of some person against me set his face against it & had influence enough to prevent it, I was adviced to keep the Ship till another triale could be made, but the season being fully come, and Morey with the principle men chose to sail rather than wait, they accordingly sail'd after leavg*Barney Gardner with the Small pox,who recovered and is gone with Shubt. Coffin in the Mary, the only thing I wish'd for was a pass for at the time he sailed there was great apprehension of a Speedy rupture with France in support of Ireland, a considerable Fleet being suddenly equipp'd, but that has subsided, & all seems at peace at present; my

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failing in the before mentioned attempt, I believe will be no diservice in the end, having had an opporty* of showing my resentment in a quarter wch* I hope will be useful; as I have sufficient reason to suppose we shall not be subject to the Foreign duty, if she gets any oil, but the means of preventing it are not fully adjusted, for it is really difficult to devise a mehtod in such a case; a watchfull powerful opposition is, and will probable ever be the case in this Kingdom to the Ministry, let them be of what party they will, it matters not, for opposition seems reduc'd to a system, which portends no good to a Government though fix'd upon the most liberale and best Constitution (considering the present state of mankind) in the world, yet such is the case by the powerfull oppositions sometimes made, it is subject to be shaken to the very center, to shew you how strict the Custom house officers are where Interest is on their side, I will give you an instance or two now ~~pending~~ pendg*.90 odd Tuns of oil was ship'd here out of the Ship United States fm* Falkland Islands in the Mary, & was enter'd as Oil obtained by Brittish Subjects, an information was lodg'd, that she was not Navigated according to Law, having a greater number of Foreigners than the law admitted, and notwithstandg* it is clearly prov'd that the Ship had her full compliment of Brittish Subjects requir'd by law, when she enter'd on the voige, but some running away oblig'd them to take others fm. that necessity, & these that they tooke the very men which they wish to invite into this Country, yet the Oil is held, & to be brought to triall, & how it will terminate is impossible to tell. here is also some of the Manillas Oils arrived from Hallifax, with the Govenr* and Collectors recommendation for it to be admitted,upon the low duty. it is refused at the Custom house, and a petition now lays before the Treasury in behalf of it, I hope it will be admitted but I cannot determine that will be the case; I am called upon to appear before the Committee of Lords of the Privy Counsel suppose it will be on 2nd day next, where it is probable this matter will be discuss'd, & I hope will return favourable, yet I view it as a matter of great uncertainty; but before I leave this Country, I have ***

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no doubt these matters will be digested and settled.The reports you have of the duty being like to be reduc'd to L-8 or thereabouts is quite premature, there is as yet no Treaty of Commerce with A merica on foot,nor as I indicated has the Ambassador sufficient power to Negotiate, as Congress themselves I suppose are not vested with the necessary Authority from the several States; the State of the Cabinet in that respect I believe from pretty good Authority ~~is~~ is this, a part are strongly for a treaty, but a Majority are against it, but I have no doubt as I mention'd to you before, that things might be made much better, if America would set heartily to worke & strictly fulfill the Treaty of Peace according to the Spirit of it, & then endeavour to acquire a greater degree of common justice,with a desire at the same time to conciliate rather than to aggravate; they are justly blameable in these three particulars, and I have no doubt but much good would be produc'd by such an alteration in their System; but unhappily for them they have view'd their commerce with the different Nations in too important a light, and pitty* it is they have brought it so much to the test, as to make a discovery of its reale importance, this has brought great ruin upon our trade, for we now see that by burning the natural commerce of our Country out of its common channels, Nations have been taught that they are not so dependant on us as they themselves imagin'd, therefore they are indifferent about it; nevertheless, I have no doubt but the commerce of America so far as our exports can produce, which ever ought to keep pace with our imports. would be very advantageous exchange to this Country,& worth their Attention, but notwithstanding the poor Shipping Merchants are in such a suffering condition,on acct*of the American trade,yet they seem not to have the least influence with Government to alter their System toward them, though I think it might be done much for the better, & I believe will be when we thinke & act right on our side. I doubt I shall tire you with these matters foreign from our private business.

I will therefore enter more particularly on our own affairs. I find and I am not in the least disappointed in it, that nothing can be done for Nantucket, so long as we remain a part of the United States, and as the folly & weakness of the Massachusetts are determined to hold us, we therefore have nothing to ~~xxxxx~~* expect in our present situation; but I am more & more convinc'd that if we had gain'd our point, (which was but just we should) we might have gain'd an indulgence sufficient for a subsistance; for our situation has been so mistaken here, that we have untill of late, been constantly involv'd in Idea with America in the late war; but on pointing out our reale situation on paper, during the war, & since that period, back'd with such reason as my small capacity would admit, has been intirely irresistable, & given up by every individual to Whom it was presented, which were the chief Ministers of State, even the Prime Minister himself (W. Pitt, a great young man about 26 or 27, & at the head of a great nation) I was admitted to an interview with him, & had a good oppty* of laying our situation before him during the war, with the devastation that had been made upon us by Brittish Cruisers, mentioning the number of vessells* we had lost, & the amount of the property as near as I could judge; & told him that they the Brittish Nation had put the finishing stroke to our ruin by the foreign duty, with many other matters wch* I do not recollect;he was struck with astonishment at the rehearsale, & acknowledg'd agreeable to my assertion that we were in fact apart of the Brittish dominions untill they themselves cut us off by the Peace; he also expressed his wonder how our vessells could be condems'd, I committed our case to writing & sent him wh

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No. 3 London 12th mo, 14th, 1785

My dear Son Thomas

Among the letters I rec'd * of the Warwicks, I dont find thy name to any one, I should have been pleas'd with a few lines, but I cannot impute it to forgetfullness, not want of regard to an affectionate father, so far seperated from thee, but rather for want of time, finding you have all been much engaged since we left home, so that upon the whole I am willing to find an excuse for thee, but hope by another opportunity thou will not omit giving me the pleasure of reading a few lines under thy hand, for remember this is the only best substitute for converse with our distant friends and near relatives, and a great blessing it is that we are favour'd with such a medium, whereby instructions and edification may be and so frequently is convey'd; and as a tender & affectionate Parent one whose mind is seldom free(when awake) from an anxious concern for the wellfare and preservation of his rising offspring sincerely desiring they may be favoured to tread the paths of virtue, and shun those of vice in the first appearance, let this my dear son be thy constant care, and then thou will not only reap the fruits of peace & satisfaction of mind manyfold while in this probationary state, but in the end will give thee an admittance into eternal happiness, an earnest of which we shall all stand in need of at the time that is swiftly approaching to us, therefore let me repeat ~~at~~ what I have heretofore wrote thee in substance, to be upon thy guard against every temptation presented to thy view, for many thou will have no doubt in the course of thy passing along, the sin is not in being tempted, but in yeilding to the temptation; but I hope thou will so conduct as to be a comfort to thy dear Mother, whose advice as well as thy dear Brothers & Sister, I desire thy will attend to. So with desires for thy present & future wellfare I am thy affectionate

Father
Wm Rotch